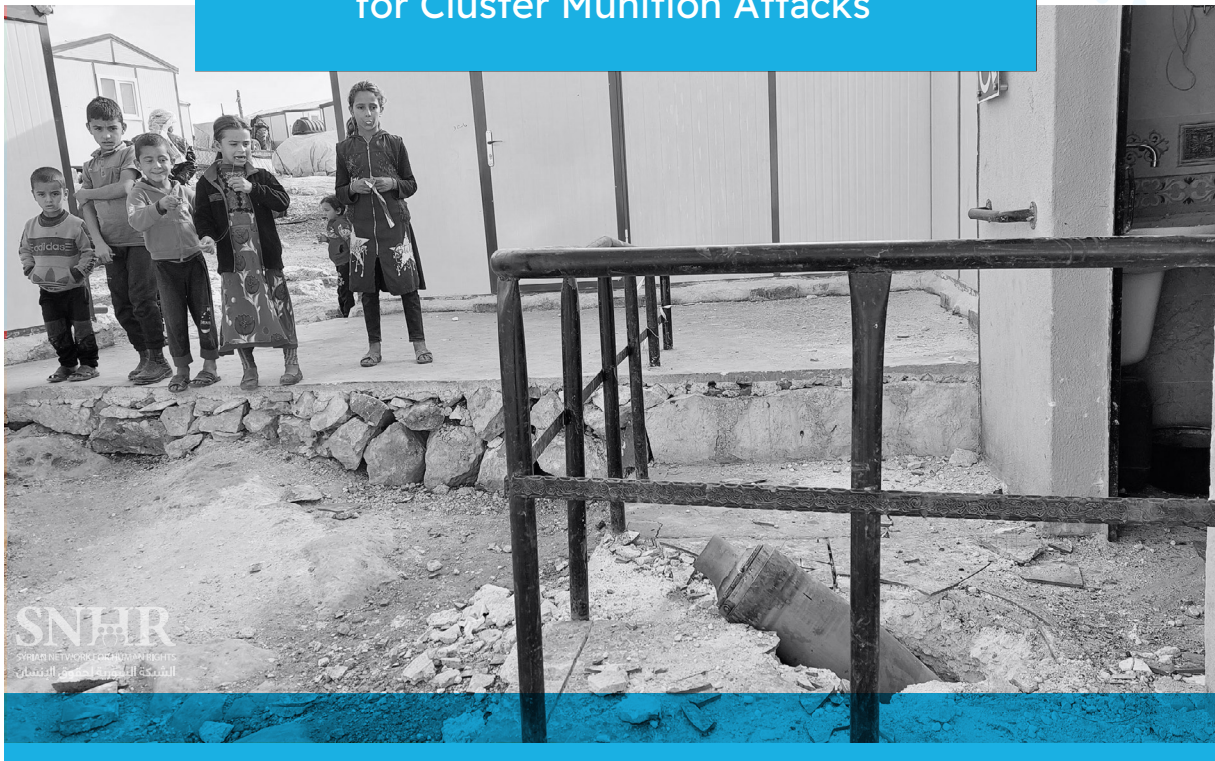


Statement

**Cluster Munitions Monitor
14th Annual Report
Ukraine & Syria Are the World's
Worst Countries in Terms of
Victims of Cluster Munitions**

SNHR is a Principal Source on Syria,
Proving the Syrian Regime's Responsibility
for Cluster Munition Attacks



Wednesday 6 September 2023

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyzes in Syria.

[The International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition \(ICBL-CMC\)](#)

recently released its 14th annual report on monitoring the use of cluster munitions worldwide. The CMC is a global civil society campaign working to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties from their use, and put an end to the suffering caused by these weapons.

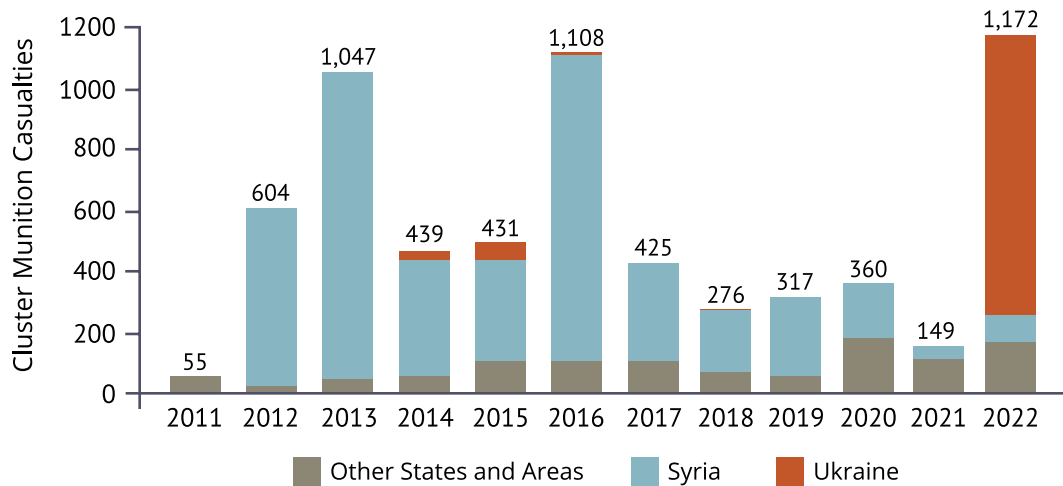
As a member of the CMC, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) provides regularly updated data collected and documented by our team on the ground. This data includes the victims that have been killed or injured; the locations of these incidents, and the parties responsible for the use of cluster munition in each case, where possible. These parties are limited to either the Syrian regime or Russian forces, since we have not documented any use of cluster munition by other parties to the conflict in Syria over the 12 years of the conflict.

As with every year, SNHR reviews and comments on the annual report. With respect to Syria, [the report draws upon three main sources:](#)

- Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)
- SNHR

The following are the main findings of this year's report on Syria: Syria has been the worst country in the world in terms of the death toll from cluster munitions from 2012 until 2021, and was the second-worst in 2022 (after Ukraine). The report records 91 deaths and injuries (85 in cluster munitions attacks, and six by the explosion of cluster munition remnants). The report notes that nine civilians at least were killed and approximately 75 injured on November 6, 2022, in a regime attack on a group of camps in northern Idlib backed by Russian forces. SNHR released a report on this incident on March 21, 2023, entitled, ['Investigation: The Syrian Regime Used Cluster Munitions to Target a Gathering of IDPs Camps in Northwestern Idlib City'](#).

The CMC report includes a chart showing the proportion of cluster munitions victims in Syria out of all victims killed worldwide for each year since 2011:



Thousands of Syrians, many of them children, have been forced to undergo amputations or been left permanently disabled as a result of Syrian regime and Russian forces' heavy use of cluster munitions over large areas. The still-live remnants of these lethal, internationally outlawed munitions, which are still heavily scattered across Syria, constitute a major obstacle to the safe return of the displaced and the movement of relief and civil defense workers and their vehicles, as well as posing a grave threat to the reconstruction and development process.

In our partnership with the ICBL-CMC, SNHR works to achieve the strategic goals of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition, including:

- Ensure no further use of cluster munitions and antipersonnel landmines.
- Ensure a reduction in the area of land contaminated by cluster munitions or landmines.
- Bring about a tangible progress in the quality of life for victims of mines and cluster munitions.

The cluster munitions used over the past 12 in Syria will continue to pose a lethal threat to Syrians, especially children. In order to alleviate this danger, we need more logistical support to document the locations where cluster munitions have been used. There is also a need for increased support for organizations working to remove these remnants, especially the Syrian Civil Defense (White Helmets), as well as more help for medical organizations providing treatment for those left as amputees or suffering disabilities as a result of these weapons' use.

To read the full report, issued on Tuesday, September 5, 2021, please visit [this link](#).



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No justice without accountability

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